

CITY CONNECTION

City Hall is moving...

If you visit City Hall to pay taxes, get a permit or a business license, you will soon be redirected to the new Customer Service Center. This will be where residents may access in-person services while City Hall is being renovated.

The Customer Service Center (CSC), located in the old DMV building at 9800 Godwin Drive, will offer the same services and access to City staff. It is a single level building with ample parking. Residents can still ask questions about projects, pay bills, get business licenses, or get building and zoning permits and parking permits in one place.

The Planning and Community Development Department, Commissioner of the Revenue, and Treasurer's Offices will move to the CSC in stages beginning in November until January. The City is aiming to make the transition with little to no disruption in service. While the building permit counter moves to the CSC the week of Nov. 15, the permit counter at City Hall will remain open with limited service until Nov. 24.

If you still want to pay for permits by cash or check before the Treasurer's office moves to the CSC the week of Jan. 10, staff will ensure you get your permit without having to make an extra trip between buildings. Once the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office moves to the CSC the week of Jan. 10, business owners will be able to take care of permits and business licenses in one place.

Residents may be able to save a trip for an in-person service by using recently improved online portals. At www.manassasva.gov/permits residents can apply for a building permit, check the status of these permits and plan

reviews, pay permit fees, verify the status of inspections and upload documents. As always, you can set up an appointment with staff to discuss building or zoning projects.

At www.manassasva.gov/treasurer residents, businesses and visitors can use a variety of apps to pay taxes, including Venmo, Google Pay and Apple Pay, in addition to credit cards. Paying by echeck costs 95 cents per transaction, while dropping your paper check in the mail or in the City Hall drop box is always free. At www.manassasva.gov/business residents can download business forms, file meals taxes, renew business licenses, and add motor vehicle updates.

Other offices will also be on the move in early 2022, including the City Manager's Office, which will move to the Piedmont Building at 9324 West St. This building is home to the Fire and Rescue Department's headquarters and the Department of Social Services. In February, Human Resources will move to the Public Works complex at 8500 Public Works Drive.

City Hall opened in 1987, when the population of the City of Manassas was about 22,000, a little over half of today's population. The renovation will address traffic flow problems, create more usable spaces, create additional public meeting and conference spaces, and make use of hallways to reconfigure office space. The extra space will allow departments that regularly work

together to be located close together.

The renovation is expected to earn a silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDS) certification, which makes the building more sustainable and energy efficient, and keeps its consumption footprint smaller. New HVAC and electrical systems, new windows and plumbing, and a new elevator will contribute most to the energy efficiency. In the last year, a new roof and generator were installed as part of the City Hall Renovation Capital Improvement Project budgeted at \$7.8 million.

"Most buildings need to be renovated every 25 to 30 years to modernize and make them more functional. With this renovation, we will meet not only current needs, but cater to the needs of the future," says Director of Public Works Scott Horan, manager of the project.

"We have been planning this renovation for several years. We hope to minimize any disruptions in service and look forward to opening a more functional, friendly, and sustainable City Hall," says City Manager W. Patrick Pate.

Who's Moving Where?



Planning & Community Development

- building & zoning permits
- long range planning

Customer Service Center
9800 Godwin Drive



Commissioner of the Revenue

- business licenses & taxes
- real estate & personal property taxes



Treasurer

- tax payments
- parking permits



A Moment with the Mayor



Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

Happy November!

We are in full FALL mode here in the City of Manassas with all of the festivals, smells of the season and now our thoughts turn to family gatherings at the end of the month. I don't know about you but I have so much to be

thankful for...especially during this pandemic. Many have lost loved ones and will have empty spaces at their Thanksgiving tables this year; my heart goes out to all of you who have or are dealing with COVID. We hope that folks will continue to follow all guidelines to keep enjoying all that our City has to offer!

We have had such a great time at the various festivals around the City and I believe we had the largest Fall Jubilee crowd we have ever had and it was so wonderful to see everyone out with their families enjoying all of the activities and shopping and dining here in our great City. We have so much to offer. Thanks to all who took me up on the "get a picture with the mayor" challenge... lots of pics were taken that day, the energy was amazing!

This month, I want to also thank and acknowledge all of our veterans as we prepare to celebrate Veterans Day on

Nov. 11. We are so very thankful for all that has been given for our freedom. Be sure to thank a veteran for their service and moreover for their sacrifice, both those who have served and those who are serving now. I certainly know that I would not be where I am had it not been for the veterans who have served our country.

As you prepare for your Thanksgiving Day festivities, please, if you are able to, donate some food to your local pantry or work in a shelter. Find a way to give back to your community! I am looking forward to seeing all the pictures of your family gatherings and sharing in the festivities with one another. The sights and sounds of the holiday season are here. Please stay safe and healthy so we can continue to get together.

Until next month!

Manassas Museum - On the Move

The Manassas Museum will close on Dec. 15 as a renovation/expansion project gets underway. The project will achieve what focus and advisory groups have asked for through the years: new engaging exhibits to tell the story of Manassas, and more welcoming and accessible spaces for community use.

Several plans to renovate and expand the Museum were first introduced about 15 years ago, and were set aside due to economic conditions. Originally planned as a temporary exhibit to celebrate the centennial of the City's founding in 1873, the Museum opened in 1974 in leased space and relocated to the current Prince William Street facility in 1991.

Community input gathered during "Relmagine the Museum" meetings helped to influence the design of the expansion, which will feature a glass-walled special exhibit hall. The brick wall at the front of the Museum will be removed to create a better connection to the surrounding Downtown, but the expanse of lawn—which has become

a kind of town green for events—will remain. Interior renovations will make the building more energy efficient, create more space for the community to use, and provide more storage for the Museum's growing collection, most of which is now located offsite.

Visit www.manassasmuseum.org for Museum programs and tours, which will continue while the Museum is closed. Echoes, the Manassas Museum Store, has a smaller store open at the Historic Train Depot across from the Museum. From now until Dec. 15, items can be purchased at both the Museum and at

the Depot. Parks, Culture and Recreation staff will continue improving and renting parks, scheduling Harris Pavilion concerts, and managing Stonewall Park Pool from their temporary offices, and visitors can still buy tickets and reserve parks inside Echoes at the Depot.

Weigh in on what exhibits and programs you would like to see in the Museum at www.manassasva.gov/reimagine. The Museum reopens in April 2023 in time for the City's 150th birthday.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

November is the perfect time to remember the many things for which we are thankful. When people are asked "What are you thankful for?" the top answer is often "friends and family." Likewise, in our community satisfaction survey, being "near family and friends" is also one of the top reasons selected for living in the City of Manassas. The other top reasons for why residents live in Manassas are "affordable housing" and "proximity to employment." All of these are good reasons to be thankful.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, our thoughts are turning towards cooler days and celebrating the upcoming holidays. It is interesting to note the variety of stories that we hear related to the origins and traditions of Thanksgiving. Almost all involve food (although not necessarily the foods we currently associate with the holiday) and religious celebrations.

The stories involve individuals coming together from different backgrounds and circumstances to share thanks for common interests. The main reasons for these interactions, particularly for the Native Americans, remains shrouded with uncertainty as the stories we grew up hearing are mostly from the point of view of the colonialists. As with most historical events, our knowledge and understanding of what might have actually happened, along with important context for the events,

continues to evolve over time.

Despite the many varied stories and traditions of Thanksgiving Day in the US, the one consistent theme is a day to give thanks. We give thanks for food and celebrations. We give thanks for those individuals with whom we celebrate. I also see many things in Manassas to be thankful for and I hope that you do as well.

One is the annual Veterans Parade along with the Veterans Day activities in our community. My father-in-law spent a career in the Army and my father served in the Korean War. I heard many stories from both of them about their service and the deep impact it had on their lives. Here, in Manassas it is difficult to be in any group of people that does not include someone who either is currently active or has been active in the military. We can all be thankful for the ways these individuals have been a part of supporting the freedoms that we enjoy.

I am thankful for the many other public servants who we have in the community. Again, it is difficult in our community to be in a group that does not include someone who works for the federal government, a local government or a local school system. These individuals are dedicated to making sure services are provided, which enable us to have the high quality of life we enjoy. We recently completed a City Leadership Academy, where Manassas residents got a "behind the scenes" look at the services that are provided by your City. When this class is over it is always a pleasure to hear how much they learned about what it takes to run a city and the variety of services provided. I am particularly thankful for the ways that our city staff "go above and beyond" to provide outstanding customer service and improve the quality of life in our community.

I am also thankful for our elected officials. These individuals spend countless hours in meetings, attending public events and serving the community. You can also see the tremendous amount of time and effort spent just to seek the opportunity to serve. This month I want to particularly

thank David Farajollahi for his service over the last year stepping in to fill a vacant Council position. David has been dedicated to fulfilling the obligations of a Council member and even willing to use his language skills to help with translations at several City events. It is a significant sacrifice of time and energy away from family to serve as an elected official with the impossible task of trying to understand and meet all of the desires of a community. I am extremely grateful for each person who steps up to serve in Manassas.

I am also thankful for each of you who are members of this community. This is a wonderful place to live, work and play because of the wonderful people who make up this community. So, to my wonderful community I say, HAPPY THANKSGIVING and I hope you get to enjoy the things that you are thankful for this season!

W. Patrick Pate



MANASSAS CITY LIBRARY

Prince William Public Libraries has nearly 20 Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) lamps that can be checked out, renewed, and put on hold. Find them by searching for "SAD Lamp" in the online catalog or at at the Library.

The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. For more information go to www.visitmanassas.org.

Farmer's Market for the Season:

Thursday Farmer's Market at the Harris Pavilion ends Nov. 4 and Saturday Farmer's Market on Prince William Street Commuter Lot ends Nov. 27 - Hours for both are 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

History Virtual Talks

Wednesday **Spotlight on History Virtual Talks** at www.facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure

Now - Dec. 4 - **Wild Webs Exhibit** at the ARTfactory

Now - Dec. 18 - **Gingerbread House Contest** - Want to compete? Apply before Nov. 25 at www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 2 - Election Day - for more information visit www.manassasva.gov/vote

Nov. 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. - **Gallery Walk** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Nov. 5 – 6 p.m. – **Manassas Museum Exhibit** Opening Honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Greater Manassas Christmas Parade. Open through Dec. 15.

Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Fall RecycleFest** - Household Hazardous, eWaste and shredding at the Manassas Transfer Station - 8305 Quarry Road

Nov. 6 at 11 a.m. - **Northern Virginia Veterans Day Parade**

When weather permits - **Ice Skating** is back at the Harris Pavilion

Nov. 25 - **Happy Thanksgiving** - All trash and recycling collection for Thursday will take place on Saturday. Please make sure that containers are set out on Friday night for collection.

Dec. 3 beginning at 5:15 p.m. - **Santa Lights Manassas**

Dec. 5, 12 & 19 from 1 - 4 p.m. - **Merry Old Town** - free Sunday carriage rides, sparkling City lights and more

Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. - **75th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade - Right Down Santa Claus Lane**

Dec 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **City of Manassas Holiday Market** - Come out for a day of last minute shopping for unique gifts at the Train Depot Lot.

Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. - **Manassas Chorale "Sing Gloria!" Winter Concert** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center www.manassaschorale.org

Dec. 12 from 1-4 p.m. – **Liberia Open House** hosted by the Museum Associates – 8601 Portner Ave.

Dec. 15 - Jan. 22 - **Off the Wall Art Exhibit/Competition** - High School students compete in this art show sponsored by Lockheed Martin.

Dec. 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. - **Jolly Ol' Confections** - A Tasting event of Santa's Sweet Treats. \$10 cash (\$11 card) for unlimited tastings

Dec. 25 - **Merry Christmas** - All trash and recycling collections will run on a regular schedule

Jan. 1, 2022 - **Happy New Year** - All trash and recycling collections will run on a regular schedule

Keep Manassas Beautiful Helps East End Mobile Home Park

Working with communities to reduce litter and encourage recycling is at the heart of what we do as a Keep America Beautiful Affiliate. So, when East End Mobile Home Park reached out for help and advice about working with their residents, we jumped at the opportunity!

In June, Keep Manassas Beautiful (KMB) installed a Froggo™ recycling receptacle in the mobile home park's new playground, and in September, KMB volunteers worked with community members and their children to paint and install trash receptacles that would help reduce litter in a very creative and personal way. Does your community have a Keep Manassas Beautiful project in mind? Visit: www.manassasva.gov/kmb or call (703)257-8256 for more information.



Get Social!

Visit the City at www.manassasva.gov

www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas

www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas

www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas

www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas

www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email prrince@manassasva.gov

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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